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The **H** Magazine for the Christian Home
Hearthstone



Let's Find Out Together - Doris Clore Demaree
Your Family and Missions - Ed Stowell Mace

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The Magazine for the Christian Home Hearthstone

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Happy New Year!

What better time than at the beginning of another year is there for sitting down with the family and looking at the past year with appreciation and looking to the New Year with anticipation. Are there goals that we should be setting for our family? What things would we be able to change? Richard E. Lentz deals with these and other questions in the study article, "What Are You Living For?"

The children's article, "Let's Find Out Together," by Doris Clore Demaree can assist parents while working with their children to find answers to the endless questions that arise. As an example, the metamorphosis of a caterpillar is explained not through words alone, but rather through the day-by-day watching of the process.

"The Church and the Unwed Mother" by Carol Albright proves its worth to churches, families, and individuals who are seeking workable approaches to this dilemma. Certainly the teachings of Jesus as pointed out by the author should direct our attitude and course of action.

According to the report of one of the larger denominations during the decade of the fifties at least 373 missionaries are needed to carry on the present program, a figure which, of course, does not include the additional number needed to expand the present missionary enterprise. The report stated further that this particular communion had never fully occupied any of the areas for which they had assumed responsibility. The lack of resources: shortage of missionaries, essential equipment, and world budget has kept this religious body from measuring up to all of their opportunities in missionary endeavor. Ed Stowell Mace, in the article, "Your Family and Missions," awakens the family to its responsibility in this matter of sustaining missions (and our world).

Experiences of people who have exercised great faith and by doing so have realized unbelievable dreams, are recorded throughout history. Mrs. Nettie Tucker is such a person. Her dream was to have a museum that would provide spiritual inspiration to all ages. You will want to read about her and the museum in the article "Through Eyes of Faith" by Edith M. Dean.

Coming next month: an article by Arthur B. Jeffries concerning the physical and spiritual benefits in congregational singing; "A Mother Looks at Integration," by Marion Allison; and by Rosemary Lancaster, "We Give God's Share First."

Until next month,

R. C.

For the past seventeen years Mrs. Nettie Tucker of Beaumont, California, has walked a road paved with faith. It was this faith that permitted her to set a goal for herself which would not have been easily attainable for a person with both money and health. Mrs. Tucker had little of either. Her principal asset was a firm belief that the museum of hobbies which she was determined to acquire would be a moral and spiritual inspiration for many people. She was especially anxious to reach those who might not avail themselves of such inspiration from other sources.

The only thing Mrs. Tucker had in abundance was scoffers. Dolls were for kids, they reasoned. What could anyone possibly do with those old broken dolls and other junk she was rummaging from the attics and basements around the Oregon countryside? Why did she insist on trading beautiful handmade sea shell jewelry or picture frames for trash most folks were only too glad to get rid of?

Quietly, but persistently, Mrs. Tucker continued her collection in spite of the carping criticism of

which she was fully aware and which often hurt her deeply.

She recalls, in particular, the time she traded a polished sea shell picture frame for an old cast iron pot that was being used as a dog's dish. When she made her request known, the people thought she was joking. When they were sure that she was serious, they traded gladly, but they made no attempt to hide their amusement.

"Those people thought that I was crazy," Mrs. Tucker said, blushing at the memory, "and I was so embarrassed."

Strangely enough, she understood the ridicule. "It must have seemed strange for me to trade handmade articles for what everyone else considered junk," she said. However, her faith-induced determination would not permit her to stop collecting, nor could she accept these things as gifts, as they were frequently offered, for fear of breaking up her collection once it was acquired.

After seven long, arduous years, Mrs. Tucker opened her museum in Oregon. She discovered that

Through Eyes of Faith

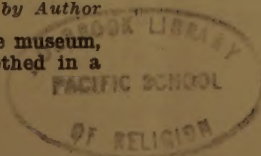
by Edith M. Dean

Determined to establish a museum designed for moral and spiritual inspiration for the entire family, Mrs. Tucker advances through a discouraging period of sickness and the cold front of ridicule to fashion a new world of little people out of attic and junk items.



Photo by Author

Children are delighted with the many items in the museum, especially the dolls. The doll in the photo is clothed in a dress of Sunday Church School cards.



she had talent for repairing as well as for making dolls. She had been given an opportunity to develop this talent which she had stubbornly refused to bury.

But her already frail health showed the strain of hard work, and she was forced to move to the Arizona desert under a physician's order to do *no* work.

Had her faith-paved road led to a dead-end street? Her friends may have entertained the thought, but it never occurred to Mrs. Tucker. She spent a few months in Arizona. Then, with the help of her daughter, Mrs. Alice Squier, and with God's blessing, she opened at her present location in Beaumont.

As one browses through the museum and looks at the many dolls Mrs. Tucker has made or repaired, one would never suspect, would scarcely even believe, that she has never had a lesson in doll making. For instance, in her reproduction of "The Doctor," she has caught the anguished facial expressions perfectly. In something of the "before and after" effect, a copy of the original painting by Sir Luke Fields is displayed beneath its doll counterpart.

"It was very hard to get the expression of the father," Mrs. Tucker remembered.

Her model of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" was made of newspaper and paste, against her doctor's orders, during her sojourn in Arizona.

"I was sure he was in my corner," she explains, "and I know how much good da Vinci's original painting on a plaster wall in Milan, Italy, had done. I, too, wanted to repeat the message of love and hope there is for everyone in the "Last Supper."

The cast iron pot of "dog dish fame" takes its place in Mrs. Tucker's life-sized display of old-time family living which she calls "Looking into the Past." Mrs. Tucker had, through eyes of faith, seen it there more than a decade ago.

Although inspiration for the entire family is the theme and the purpose of the collection, many other essentials of the full life are represented. A touch of humor has been added by the dolls patterned after W. C. Fields, Groucho Marx, and a cartoon reproduction of St. Peter greeting a Texan at the Pearly Gates with the admonition, "You won't like it." Then, with an eye toward encouraging whole-family collection hobbies, she has dolls clothed in postage stamps, buttons, beads, the Sunday church



Mrs. Tucker's model of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" was created from newspaper and paste. Realizing how much good the original painting has done, she used this medium to repeat the message of love and hope there is for everyone in the "Last Supper."

Photo by Author

school cards of years ago, and, of course, sea shells of the type she had used to barter her way to possessing the museum. Entertainment is supplied by a miniature, old-fashioned barbershop quartette, for which an eighty-five-year-old German music box plays a delightful, tinkling accompaniment.

The collection is steeped in history, beginning with the doll that made the trek West in a covered wagon, to the group of "First Ladies" in authentic inaugural dress. Mrs. Tucker's daughter has worked side-by-shoulder with her mother at the museum but never has she helped more than with the researching and typing of a brief history of the doll itself or the figure it represents. This is pinned to the dolls' clothes which Mrs. Squier also helps her mother make.

This is not a museum for adult interest only. The accent on the small fry might easily be said to start with "Suffer Little Children." Then there is Cinderella with her pumpkin coach, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Little Boy Blue, Mistress Mary, and many others.

Visitors ranging in age from six to ninety-four

have enjoyed the magic of the museum, including the represented celebrities, Lou Thesz and Klondike Kate. When Mrs. Tucker wrote the erstwhile entertainer for permission to represent her in this world of "little people," Kate not only gave her permission, but she also sent some of her own hair to be used. She later visited the Oregon museum, and she and Mrs. Tucker became very good friends.

Perhaps the visitor who made the entire venture seem most worthwhile was the eighteen-year-old girl from a school for the retarded. Teachers had never been able to "get through" to her because she had never shown an interest in anything. At the museum, however, she became quite excited over the largest doll Mrs. Tucker has ever found, probably the largest doll in the world. Mrs. Tucker gave the excited girl a very good picture of the doll, and the girl left hugging the picture and prattling joyfully. The teacher, too, was elated. Now, that they had found a "mental point of contact" with the girl, she said that it would be possible to teach her.

(Continued on page 28)



Photo by Author

A three-dimensional picture, "The Lost Sheep," to which Mrs. Tucker attaches the inspirational poem, "The Sheep of the Flock."

THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK

We have the plea for trying to keep
The lambs in the narrow way,
And well we may: But what of the sheep
Shall they be allowed to stray?

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that wandered away
In the parable Jesus told.
A grown-up sheep that had gone astray
From the "ninety and nine" in the fold.

Out in the wilderness, out in the cold,
'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought,
And back to the flocks with love untold
'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd brought.

And why for the sheep should we earnestly long
And as earnestly hope and pray?
Because there is the danger, if they go wrong
They will lead the lambs away.

For the lambs will follow the sheep, you know,
Wherever the sheep may stray.
If the sheep go wrong, it will not be long
'Till the lambs are as wrong as they.

And so with the sheep we earnestly plead
For the sake of the lambs today,
If the lambs are lost, what a terrible cost
Some sheep will have to pay.

—Author Unknown

Your Family and MISSIONS

by Ed Stowell Mace

Are you aware of your families' heritage through the efforts of Christian missionaries? What response is your family making?

Apparently, it is a very exciting thing when a family inherits something valuable! Over and over again in plays, books, or movies there is a moment when the news comes through that the family has inherited great wealth. This is sufficient to send the whole tribe into an ecstasy and to change personalities enough so that the entire plot of the story is affected. We, less fortunates, are left with the secretly envious question, "Why couldn't we have a rich uncle who would leave us a million or so?"

The fact of the matter is that your family and mine are inheritors of infinite riches! It no doubt sounds unexciting and overpious in our materialistically oriented day to quote the scripture, "If children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ," but this is far more than a pious sentimentality. As complete realists, let us examine this for a moment. When your children are ill, are you overwhelmed by the terrible knowledge that somehow they have run afoul of some vicious, evil spirit which now possesses them and delights in making them suffer? Well, if yours were an African family, this would be so! Are your children destined by fate or by the gods to be outcasts from their fellows, forever, untouchable; and must they be taught that that is their proper place in life and their children's forever? Do your chil-

dren starve while rats, monkeys, and non-productive cattle consume the precious food supply as their right? Well, if you lived in a Hindu village of India, this might be so. Does a thunderstorm send your family into a panic of terror because mighty Thor is angry? If a tornado comes and brings death, does your village gather together and vote to make a human sacrifice of your beautiful daughter to appease the anger of this volatile and temperamental god? Well, if you are Anglo-Saxon and were living with your Saxon forebears in Northern Europe a few centuries ago, this would be so!

As it is these things seem utterly ridiculous and superstitious to you because, whether you pay the slightest bit of attention to the church, or to the Bible, or Christianity or not, you have lived in a land and culture in which this Christian heritage has had such a significant effect that you take this heritage of truth for granted. The fact is, whether consciously we are Christian or not, the love of God dwells in our homes and it is no small thing. The most important one thing that we have inherited in this American culture of ours is the influence of Christ that has come down to us through our forebears. Listen to the words of Patrick Henry who not only said, "Give me liberty or give me death," but also upon another oc-

casion said, "I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them, and that is the Christian religion. If they had that, and I had not given them one shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor." Whether we are grateful or not, we have inherited something. We are children of God, "then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ."

Now, where did we get this blessing? Well, believe it or not, we got it because there were Christian missionaries! Some of us are descendants of the tribes of Northern Europe, where, long after there was an ancient culture in China, and old and established religions in India, and every Jewish boy could read from the law, the messengers of Christ found these Teutonic savages, worshiping a pantheon of unpredictable gods and practicing all kinds of superstitious rites, including the rite of human sacrifice. Some of us trace our heritage to the Mediterranean where Paul and those of his time brought the message of Christ. Some of our forefathers were brought as slaves from Africa where they fell under the influence of this heritage from their white masters, those same Anglo-Saxons mentioned above! Whatever our human heritage, unless we are direct descendants from

those few members of that first church at Jerusalem, we have this heritage of the infinite riches of Christ because there were those who witnessed to his name and dared to go and to preach the good news to those who knew not! We are not Christians or even under Christian influence because of our intelligence and our superior, spiritual insight. We have this heritage because there were those whom we call missionaries who heard God's call and shared the gospel!

There is a second verse to this song. Not only are we the product of Christian missions but the future of our families and of our homes is directly dependent upon this same thing—Christian mis-

sions. You see, our children will not only inherit our country, our culture, and our faith; but they will also, inherit a whole world which will include a lot of other people's children as neighbors who have not inherited these things! What kind of world will that be? What kind of people will populate that world? What kind of a life will be possible in the rapidly shrinking neighborhood of nations in which they will have to live? The answer to these questions in their most important implications may be largely dependent on what we do in terms of that same thing—Christian missions. For, you see, Christ can change things! He has changed them for us and our children! The African village which

Christ has touched is a different African village from the one which he has not touched. A Christian Japan will take a different attitude toward the solution of her problems than a pagan or Communist Japan, and the attitude which she takes toward the solution of her problems will affect the lives of our children! An India and a Southeast Asia, profoundly affected by the Christian religion might stem the tide of that materialistic paganism that we know as Communism and turn the whole trend of the world's anxieties!

Christ can change only that and only those with whom he comes in contact, and he can come in contact only with those who hear his word and know his love. This hap-



A. Devaney, Inc., N. Y.

Basic to the love and fellowship in our homes is the Christian heritage which we have freely received from our forefathers. In our homes can be created an atmosphere of thankfulness for those who have heard God's call and made our Christian heritage possible. We, too, can encourage one of our own who begins to feel the urgency of becoming a missionary.



Philip Gendreau, N. Y.

What kind of people will continue to live in the world? Do we really care what they will be like? Christ can change only those with whom he is confronted. Christian missionaries are sent to accomplish this mission, whether it be in far off Indonesia or next door.

pens only as there are those who are sent to share his love and his word "to the uttermost parts of the earth." These are Christian missionaries—and this is Christian missions.

So, there follows naturally, a third verse to this song of ours. When we become heirs to a material fortune, we become partners with responsibilities. So also in this great spiritual blessing which we have inherited, we become partners with the past, the present, and the future.

Whence will these missionaries come? The importance and significance of this task demands the finest, the most intelligent, the most dedicated young people that can be found. Where will we get them? Well, they will have to come, if they come at all, from our own Christian homes! Where else? Probably the next question is "how?" Probably they will not

be dedicated from infancy as was James W. Lambuth, a famous missionary who was dedicated by his father: "I dedicate this child to God as a foreign missionary and I vow a bale of cotton to send with him." Normally we do not, and should not, determine what our children will follow as a vocation. These things we can do: We can create in our homes a high and thankful appreciation of the Christian heritage that is ours. We can emphasize the constant presence of God by our life, by our words in our homes; and in our family life we can demonstrate the vital importance of the love and of the will of God! We can express our admiration and our thankfulness for those who have heard God's call and have been challenged by it. If, by the stirrings of God's spirit, one of our own begins to feel the urgency and the importance of doing this job in God's kingdom,

we can rejoice and take pride!

Is this asking too much? Well, others did it for us and for ours!

How will those who answer be sent and who will support them if they go? Is it right and Christian to send a young doctor out in the mission field to work with about one-third of the technical equipment that would be available to him in a normal practice in this country? No, these young people deserve our very best prayers and our very best support! Where will this support come from if it does not come from our own family budget? Jesus said to a group that he was sending out, "Freely, ye have received." (KJV) How true this is of us! We have received so much through this Christian gospel. It is a heritage for which we did not ask and which we did not deserve—yet surely we are

(Continued on page 28)

New Year's Resolutions

by Miriam Whitney White

As Ann Scott and her mother wrapped and labeled the last of the Christmas tree ornaments for storing in the attic, Mrs. Scott said, "When Ken comes home he can carry the tree out in the back yard."

Ann smiled, "That's one reason I never feel too badly when we take the tree down. It's fun to hang food on it outside, for the winter birds."

Ann, with her dark eyes and hair, was a small replica of her mother, even to the bright blue



Mr. Scott produced a box with a slit in the top. Each member of the family wrote a resolution, dropping it in the box. Ann, following a custom of many years, wrote a resolution for Purr-puss, too.

dress which she was wearing. The fireplace fire, burning the last scraps of tissue and Christmas ribbon, glowed with the same cherry warmth as the red draperies at the windows. The living room of their suburban Buffalo home, from draperies to slip covers to Purr-puss, their cat by the fireplace, showed a comfortable, happy home life.

The telephone in the hall rang and Ann leaped to answer it. She talked very excitedly but became a little wistful as she walked back to the living room. "Mom, Linda has asked me to go to the Strand this afternoon. Roy Rogers and Dale Evans are there *in person*."

"How nice! Certainly, you may go," her mother answered. Then noticing Ann was not bubbling over with anticipation, she added, "Aren't you happy about it? Don't you want to go?"

"Of course, I'm wild to go. I love Dale Evans." Ann paused with a downcast expression, "Linda said her grandfather's taking us. It makes me think how lonesome it is not to have our own grandfathers and grandmothers with us during the holidays."

"Dad and I miss them, too," her mother said, "but remember with Grandpa and Grandma Scott living all the time in Florida, and now that Grandpa Dodge has retired and he and Grandma have gone to California for the winter, we must get accustomed to seeing them only in the summer."

"Christmas Day was nice," Ann said. "We had so many presents and things to talk about, but New Year's Day, day after tomorrow—" she made a face. "Dad talks about New Year's resolutions—resolutions are no fun . . .

Oh, I forgot, Linda asked Ken to come too. I don't know why!"

The living room door opened with a hard push and Ken came in as Ann finished speaking. "Here's the mail! I heard 'Ken come too.' Where, and why not?" Ken glared.

"Whoopee!" He shouted when he heard the news. "Roy Rogers in person . . . Oh, boy!" Ken threw his cap in the air. Even with his crew cut, his red hair looked tousled, the dimples in his cheeks deepened, his blue eyes shone.

Ann tried to be oblivious of her brother. She felt that she was a mature girl of twelve, while her ten-year-old brother was still a child.

Ken was too excited to notice. "Linda's grandpop is fun. He used to work out West building bridges, or something. I wish Grandpa Dodge could be here. He'd go too. Remember, he took us to the rodeo last Christmas vacation. Here's a letter from him. Don't read it till I get back in the house. I see you've got the tree ready to set up in the back yard."

After Ann and Ken left for Linda's home, Mrs. Scott read her parent's letter again . . . "Thanks for everything . . . especially the pictures. We could almost hear Ken and Ann calling 'Hi!' and 'Merry Christmas!' Some neighbors invited us to their Christmas dinner. They have an eleven-year-old daughter and a nine-year-old son. It was next best to being with you."

Mrs. Scott was thoughtful for a few minutes. Then her face brightened. "Why, it's the very thing to do," she exclaimed. "Ann and Ken will be so excited."

Ann and Ken were excited when

they heard their mother's plan, but in a different way than she had expected. For once they agreed with each other in a most determined manner. "If we can't have our own grandparents here for New Year's Day, we don't want any other grandparents," was Ann's emphatic conclusion.

"Don't want anybody else's *old* grandparents," Ken blurted out, almost in tears.

When Father came home from the office he heard long and lively accounts of Dale Evans and Roy Rogers and of the cowboy movie. He heard, too, of Mrs. Scott's suggestion to invite some grandparents for dinner on New Year's Day, who had no other place to go.

"It's very thoughtful of Mother," he began; but two small stubborn faces discouraged further approval. His next remark was not too unexpected. "Let's start writing some New Year's resolutions. We'll put them in a box, read them on New Year's Day and vote for the best one."

"A-l-l right!" came from one glum voice. "O.K." came from the other. Mr. Scott produced a box with a slit in the top. Each member of the family wrote a resolution, dropping it in the box. Ann, following a custom of many years, wrote a resolution for Purr-puss, too.

The next morning Mrs. Scott made a lengthy telephone call. Later she asked Ann and Ken to go to the Senior Citizen's Center with her.

"That place where there's lots of old folks?" Ken asked, his voice suspicious and his eyes defiant.

After one look at her mother's disappointed face, Ann said.

"Let's go with Mom, Ken."

"Children aren't usually allowed there," Mrs. Scott said. "It's very kind of Mrs. Powell, the Director of the Center, to say that you may come."

Ann and Ken appeared bored when they walked into the big, central hall and saw the people. Mrs. Powell went with them from workshop to workshop to see the activities. One group was singing at a piano. Others were playing chess and canasta. One room held an art class and, in another, people were showing the toys they had repaired. "Almost as good as new," someone said.

As his mother and Mrs. Powell talked, Ken looked very sullen. "Let's go home," he muttered to Ann. "We don't want any of these people at our house on New Year's Day. Besides, they have a good time here."

As they started to leave the room, Mrs. Powell invited them to meet a couple who were playing checkers, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson.

Mrs. Jackson smiled a welcome. Mr. Jackson said, "Why, you remind us of our grandchildren in Korea. Our son and his wife are teaching there in a mission school."

Ken's face grew a little pleasanter. "We've read about Korean missions in church school. Do

your grandchildren like to live there?"

"They're getting used to it," Mr. Jackson answered. "At first they missed their friends and the fun they had here. We miss them, too. Korea is a long way off—but when I was a young man, I went to Montana to work—I think that seemed farther away to my parents than Korea does to us."

Ken looked interested. "Were there any Indians and cowboys in Montana when you went there?"

Mr. Jackson nodded his head "yes" and smiled as if the recollection of those exciting days was still a vivid memory. "Lots of cowboys, and a few Indians. I worked with what they called the 'reclamation service,' to irrigate the land. We lived at old Fort Shaw. I even went broncho bustin' with cowboys once. Had some pictures taken, too."

Ken drew a long breath. He looked to Ann for understanding and approval, then quietly consulted his mother. With his shoulders back, his head high, his eyes very bright, Ken said, "Mother says we may invite someone to our home for New Year's dinner. Our grandparents are in Florida and California. Can you and Mrs. Jackson come? We would be very glad to have you."

Ann placed her arm around Mrs. Jackson's shoulder. "Please come, Mrs. Jackson!" Ken looked at his mother. Were there tears in her eyes? Anyway, she was smiling!

Mr. Jackson answered promptly after a look at Mrs. Jackson. "Thank you, Ann and Ken, we'll be very glad to come."

Perhaps there was a twinkle in Mr. Jackson's eyes as he turned toward Mrs. Powell, or was it because he looked so pleased!

"Can you bring those cowboy pictures?" Ken asked.

"I can and I will," Mr. Jackson spoke positively.

Ann slid her free arm around her mother. Her voice was low, but very positive, as she said, "Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson for accepting the invitation to our New Year's dinner."

On New Year's night, after the Jacksons had gone back to their apartment, the Scott family took their resolutions out of the box. It was evident that resolutions had been added since the first night, even another from Purr-puss. There was no need of voting for the best one, there were five that read almost the same: "If we are lonesome on a holiday, let's invite someone to dinner who is lonesome, too."

W
I
L
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R



"No matter where I put my things,
somebody's always bothering them."

New Year

Another year of life's
delight

Has come to start us
on our way;

As hope and work and
joy unite,

The months move swiftly
in their flight,

Resuming excellence
and might,

To place achievement
on display.

—Clyde S. Creel

Let's Find Out Together

by Doris Clore Demaree



"Mommie, what makes the stars shine?" "Daddy, how can the fish breathe under the water?" What? Why? How? Questions and questions and more questions. Children are just made of questions. I remember one of the first major questions that our younger son asked. "Mother, what makes it rain? Does God have a faucet he turns on in the sky?"

How would you have answered him? He was a preschooler at the time and not yet ready for a scientific answer. But he was ready for a religious answer. God was involved. "No, Son, God doesn't turn on a faucet in the sky to make

it rain." (That much he could understand but go on, please.)

"But God does make it rain, Son. You've seen the clouds in the sky. God makes the rain fall from the clouds. Some day you will understand how he does it. See how the raindrops fall on the walk and bounce like tiny balls. See how the drops roll down the windows. God makes it rain." He could understand that much and he was satisfied.

It was another day—a Sunday. Proudly he shared with us his rote learning of the morning, "Love one another." Then he looked to us for approval. What should we

have said? How should we have answered him? Still a preschooler, he was not yet ready for adult thinking.

"That's a lovely thing to say, Son. Do you know where the words are written?"

Perhaps the question was beyond him. His face took on a puzzled, questioning look. Then a smile broke as he turned to pick up his Bible story paper. "Here it is," he said, and he pointed to the words.

"But those words are in the Bible," I answered. "Let me show you." Quickly I picked up the Bible from the nearby table

"Mother, what makes it rain? Does God have a faucet he turns on in the sky?"

have time for answering? Sometimes the question is even bigger than that. How do we answer the questions? Or do we even try?

"Grandma, you are old, aren't you? Grandma, when are you going to die?" This time it was our young granddaughter questioning. A neighbor lady had died. Someone had said she was old. To a five-year-old most adults seemed old—even her beloved grandmother. She was concerned. These were questions beyond her already-achieved knowledge. She had a right to an answer—one that she could understand, one that was satisfying, one on which she could build. And so a child's faith is developed or stunted: developed if we answer his questions truthfully and within his ability to understand; stunted if we give him the wrong answer or shove him aside with, "I'm busy. Go, play!"

Sometimes we do not know the answer. Do we dare admit it? Or do we say, "Let's find out together"?

"Together!" That is a wonderful word. Even as the child questions and we answer there is a sense of togetherness in the process. But when the question comes and you suggest discovering the answer together, there comes a new light to the child's face, a new lift to his entire body. Something exciting is in store.

"Look, Mother, isn't this worm beautiful?"

As you look at its soft greenness touched with bits of gold you answer, "Some day it will be more beautiful. It will be a butterfly."

"A butterfly? But, Mother, how?"

You explain the process but it is so unbelievable. "Let's put the worm with its bit of carrot leaf in a glass jar," you say. "Let's watch what happens and find out together."

As the child's questions are answered satisfactorily his confidence in you grows. As his questions are recognized as being very important, never to be cast aside carelessly, his confidence in you continues to grow. As his questions graduate into those beyond your

knowledge and ability to answer satisfactorily, if together you go questioning, you continue to foster a growing confidence in yourself, in the world about him, and in God.

"Let's find out together" is an attitude toward all of life. It can find many ways of implementation. Discovering together about the work of our church for the homeless, the needy, the non-Christians throughout the world not only builds a stronger family togetherness but strengthens a healthier Christian attitude toward all of life: racial, cultural, and spiritual.

All of life takes on a new joy, a new zest difficult to describe adequately. How does the plane fly? And we go to the airport to find out together. How is the newspaper made? And we find out together. How did the Bible come to be? Again we find out together. But these have to do with "things." Finding out about them is relatively easy.

"Daddy, in Bob's church they baptize babies. Why don't they baptize babies in our church?" This takes some thinking, some research. You talk it over. You read the biblical passages that shed light. You talk to your minister. You may be able to talk to "Bob's" minister. In finding out together you strengthen your own faith and beliefs and begin to build those of your son.

"Mother, Ann's mother won't let her invite Sally to her birthday party. Why won't she? I invited her to my party." Thinking together about the subject of race relations and cultural problems continues the process of building family togetherness and personal faith.

A child's first questions should be recognized as important. He should receive the answers they deserve. Then, as he grows older, he will continue to receive satisfactory answers or together he and his parents will go questioning. When this happens, fortunate indeed are the parents and the children. There will continue to be a wholesome frankness in all their relationships. Together they will grow toward God.

and turned to 1 John 4:7. Taking his forefinger I drew it across the page beneath the words. His face shone. Again he was satisfied and ran to play.

A few minutes later he was back again, "Love one another," he said. "Show me." Again I traced his finger beneath the words. Once more there was satisfaction. And so the hours went by, bringing him back again and again to find the words of admonition within the pages of Scripture.

Children are made of questions. Are parents filled with answers? Children have time for thinking, questioning, learning. Do parents

the church and

by Carol Albright

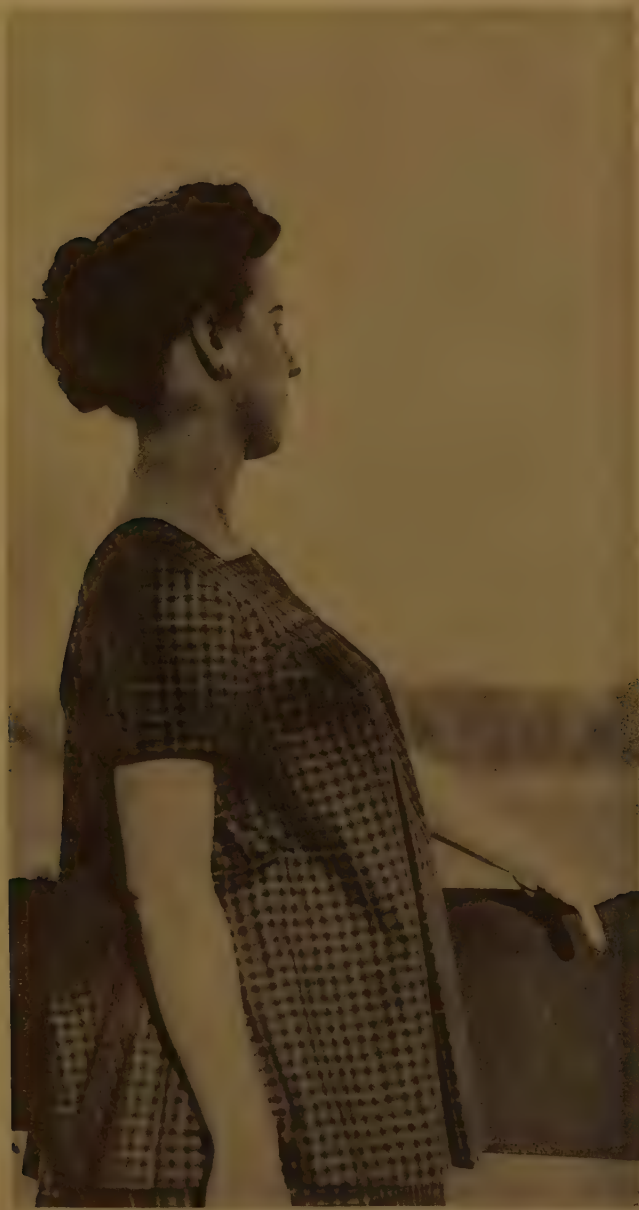


Photo by erb

A girl "in trouble," needs friendship, hope for the future, and a desire to live an upright life. Love and faith on the part of the church can make the difference for her in a life isolated from the church or in a life redeemed in spite of early mistakes.

"Did you know Sue Benson is expecting?" Normally such a question would open the way for a happy womanly exchange. This time I felt a cold hand grip my heart. The person who spoke was not an idle gossip, but the youth sponsor in our church. Sue Benson was a very attractive and active member of our youth group. Even as I asked, "Are you sure?" I knew this woman would never make such a remark without being sure.

This was the first of many times that I have encountered this problem face to face. Today, churches are having to shed their robes of self-righteousness and extend their hands in compassion to the unfortunate "girl in trouble." Although in the past this problem has been shuttled behind closed doors, it must be faced as it arises.

More and more families are choosing to stand by their girls in trouble. The local church is then being faced with a decision. Should help be offered? Should the church "stay out of it," closing its eyes to the emotional and spiritual needs of such a family when the need for resources of strength and courage is greatest?

Is the girl who chooses to stay at home, facing shame and criticism, "flaunting it in the face of society," as one woman put it? On the other hand, is she showing unusual courage by not running away to hide the result of her mistake?

Society is at last learning to deal intelligently and humanely with the situation. Churches are often several steps behind social agencies in offering help to these young women who are in great need of help.

When the problem arises locally in a church, sincere questions are asked by concerned people. What should our attitude be? Should we help her? Isn't that condoning her actions? Should we tactfully

the unwed mother

When the local church faces the problem, sincere questions are asked by its concerned members. What should our attitude be?

ignore the fact that she is not married? Is a shower going too far in ignoring the moral issues involved? Will help and support from church people at such a time encourage other girls to do wrong by minimizing the consequences of a wrong act? Isn't it better to let social agencies who deal with such things handle the whole matter? Should the church deal with such a controversial problem? Shouldn't the girl so involved be left to face the consequences to teach her a lesson.

There is no cut-and-dried answer to cover every situation. Each must be answered in the light of Christian compassion.

There is in the Bible (John 7:53—8:11) a precedent set by no less a spiritual authority than Jesus Christ. Even though the woman was about to be stoned because she was caught in the act of adultery, and by the ancient law standards deserved the penalty set for such a sin, Christ stood before society and demanded mercy. He was not saying, "What she did is all right," or "none of your business." He did not condone her actions just because he intervened! He even showed his recognition of the wrong she had done by his exhortation to "go, and do not sin again." He did step in to save her from her sin, just as he has done for all of us, though not one of us is worthy of his mercy on our own merit.

The church, representing Christ, can do much for a girl who must bear the physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences of her sin. It can offer friendship at a time when she is alone. It can offer material aid, spiritual counsel, and emotional support. It can offer direction to other agencies which are set up to help the unwed mother. Many cases are handled quietly through the minister alone. As more families

choose to care for their own daughter in trouble, the problem shifts from being just the minister's responsibility and involves the entire membership of the local church. The young woman who chooses not to retire in seclusion, but to try to adjust to the consequences of her mistake at home among the people she knows has chosen the most difficult answer to her dilemma. Many Christian people are embarrassed by her frankness of action and ignore her predicament, thinking this is the kindest way to handle it. Others feel the church's moral duty is to keep scandal from its doors by showing strong disapproval.

Often the people of the church are sincerely willing to show forgiveness and help the girl who is obviously repentant of her mistake. However, they are reluctant to help the girl who retires within a hard shell and is seemingly unrepentant. Yet, to protect herself from further hurt a girl does just that, but may be as repentant as her more emotional sister.

The church again must take its cue from Christ. He forgave and helped the woman earlier mentioned, before she had had time to think over her actions and be repentant. Treating the person with compassion and love, no matter what her attitude, seems to be the way Christ would have us deal with the problem.

When we recognize that in most cases deep emotional problems are involved, we realize that meeting the spiritual needs of the young woman at this time can help salvage her whole future. Almost never is it a case of a young person deliberately choosing an immoral life. Most cases the church must deal with are cases where the person's own moral feelings on the subject were temporarily blotted out by strong physical or emotional factors. We cannot measure

"Each of us must have the hope that our particular sins can be forgiven if we are ever to conquer them. If this is true of our secret sins, how much more is it true of the humiliating experience of the young woman whose entire physical appearance witnesses her wrong to the world."

by such standards as "how we dealt with similar temptations," or simply what is right and wrong. Our own weaknesses may lie in a different area of personality, as no doubt did the weaknesses of those who dropped their stones and turned away. Each of us must have the hope that our particular sins can be forgiven if we are ever to conquer them. If this

is true of our secret sins, how much more is it true of the humiliating experience of the young woman whose entire physical appearance witnesses her wrong to the world. Many times this humiliation, added to deep-seated personality problems which were a factor in causing her original troubles, make the young woman feel she is "bad," or that she is "considered



Photo by erb

"In one church, one group of people maintained a self-righteous, pious attitude, while another group banded together to sew for the baby and help the girl after she decided to keep her baby and support it herself. It was the attitude of the second group which rekindled the girl's faith and self-respect."

bad," and that there is no hope of redeeming herself or regaining respect.

It is the church's responsibility in this matter to try to reach and sustain within the girl hope for a healthy future. She can be helped to realize that this trouble is not the end, that it can actually become a strengthening experience which can shape her future. Individuals can help to achieve this by continuing a natural friendship which says, in effect, "You're still my friend." To the girl in trouble, this is a bond of hope.

There are always people who feel the unwed mother should suffer for her wrongdoings. Yet, if these same people saw a person slash his wrists in an attempt to commit suicide, they would feel compelled to go to his aid. Is this a kind of double standard we have developed for expressing Christian compassion? The "Hands off; this is none of my business" attitude is not a Christian reaction. Anything which deals with the spiritual condition of another person is every Christian's business. It cannot be left hopefully to some social agency to show the Christian compassion we should have had at such a time. The agency dealing with the unwed mother is to be commended for its efforts to see her through her physical needs, and for its efforts to rehabilitate her. Nevertheless the Christians of the world cannot wash their hands of their responsibility to her. Standing by in her time of need, the Church can do much to re-establish her

self-respect and her desire to have an upright life.

In one church, one group of people maintained a self-righteous, pious attitude, while another group banded together to sew for the baby and help the girl after she decided to keep her baby and support it herself. It was the attitude of the second group which rekindled the girl's faith and self-respect. Her attitude at first was the typical cynical reaction to being judged: "Well, if that's being Christian, I don't want to be." When she experienced the spirit of Christian compassion and concern through the sympathetic efforts of the second group; she recognized that as the true Christian spirit, and responded to it. Today, with her new husband who adopted the baby, she is a part of the fellowship of her home church, and feels their love and respect for what she has made of her life in spite of early mistakes.

There is no one pattern of action to outline for a church dealing with such a situation. An awareness of the possibility should be given the committee on social action, and proper attitudes of compassionate helpfulness developed. Then, as each case arises, it should be worked out with sympathetic attention to the individual's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

The responsibility of the church is not to condemn, but to say with Christ, "Go, and do not sin again," while extending a compassionate helping hand. With Christ, the church must offer hope of a new life.

Hearthstone's Visiting Nurse



BEULAH FRANCE, R.N.

At the coming in of the year ask yourself: "Have I appreciated God's great gift of health?"

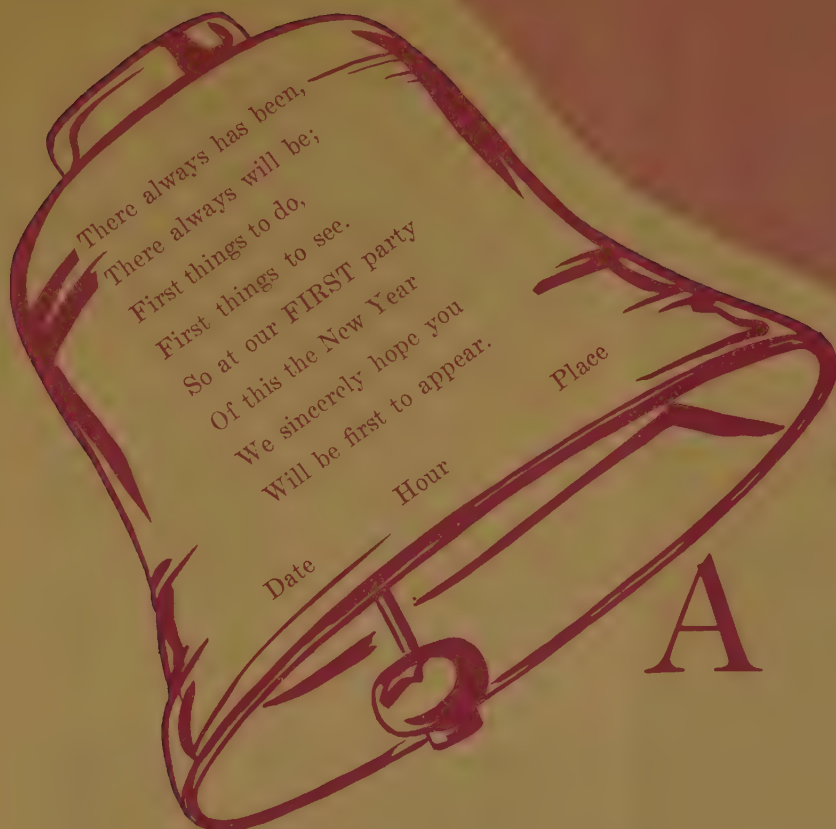
The maintenance of maximum physical, mental, social, and spiritual health is a sometimes-neglected duty. Paul respected the God-given body! Asked he, in surprise, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's spirit dwells in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16). "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship" (Rom. 12:1).

While God grants us life, we must live with the bodies he gave us. To neglect *physical* health is wrong. *Mental* health calls for clean minds—free from sinful or unworthy thoughts. "For the Lord searches . . . and understands every plan and thought." From him no secrets are hid.

Social health may be ruined by selfishness. Thoughtlessness which hurts someone; words or deeds which cause unhappiness; failure to do unto others as you would they should do unto you; these are a few typical symptoms of sickly social health.

Spiritual health comes from constant contact with God, he who "crownest the year" with goodness, whose "mercies . . . are new every morning."

"The Lord your God [careth] from the beginning of the year to the end of the year," says the Bible.



A FIRST

Everything had a beginning, so there is a FIRST for all things, and surely nothing could be more appropriate than a FIRST party for the FIRST month of the New Year.

To give your guests-to-be a hint of the nature of the party you are planning, letter the above verse with white ink on bell-shaped cards cut out of red art paper. Use the red and white colors in the decorations also.

The first arrivals are invited to form in a receiving line until a dozen or more guests have appeared when the first game of the evening will be started.

For this contest in which all take part, pencils and paper are distributed and the contestants are asked to search the room for pictures of different objects bearing three or more dates. First the contestant is to write on his paper the number appearing on the pinned-up picture, the name of the object, and the date he thinks it was first invented, or discovered as the case may be. Here are examples:

1. The first telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in
1860, 1876 or 1880?
2. The first steamship, Clermont, was invented by Robert Fulton in
1800, 1807 or 1815?
3. The first United States Flag was adopted on June 14th in
1761, 1777 or 1780?
4. The first postal service was started in Massachusetts in
1600, 1639 or 1650?
5. The first postage stamps were authorized in
1830, 1847 or 1858?

6. The first sewing machine was patented by Elias Howe in
1819, 1846 or 1850?
7. The first Sunday school was founded in England by Robert Raikes in
1766, 1780 or 1792?
8. The first bank of the United States was chartered by Congress in
1770, 1791 or 1800?
9. The first airplane flight was made by the Wright brothers in
1887, 1903 or 1906?
10. The first United States newspaper, the *Boston News Letter*, was published in
1700, 1704 or 1711?

The correct answers to the above are the years, 1. 1876; 2. 1807; 3. 1777; 4. 1639; 5. 1847; 6. 1846; 7. 1780; 8. 1791; 9. 1903; 10. 1704.

When a sufficient length of time for answering has elapsed, the papers are collected, after having been duly signed by the contestants. Later the papers are graded and a prize awarded the one who has guessed the largest number correctly. Lucky, and also observant, is the contestant that discovers that it is always the middle date that is the correct answer. An appropriate first prize for this contest would be a leather-bound date book for the new year, and a consolation prize could be a fancy box of nut-stuffed dates.

For a sitting-down game now for a change try the following. Select a leader who will read from a prepared list of old sayings and quotations, the first half of the saying and the first person to call out the correct last part of the saying will be handed a broom

Party for January

straw. At the end of the game the player having collected the most straws, receives the prize. The following list of well-known sayings suggest some that may be used.

The FIRST hundred years—are the hardest.

All is not gold—that glitters.

A stitch in time—saves nine.

A bird in the hand—is worth two in the bush.

There's many a slip—'twixt the cup and the lip.

Heads I win—tails you lose.

Waste not—want not.

No news—is good news.

When the cat's away—the mice will play.

Never put off 'till tomorrow—what you can do today.

Out of sight—out of mind.

When in Rome—do as the Romans do.

'Tis better to have loved and lost—than never to have loved at all.

Do unto others—as you would have others do unto you.

He who fights and runs away—will live to fight another day.

To err is human—to forgive divine.

United we stand—divided we fall.

An apple a day—keeps the doctor away.

A burnt child—dreads the fire.

A pound of pluck—is worth a ton of luck.

Either a desk calendar, or a book of proverbs and quotations would make a nice prize for this game.

A FIRST THINGS FIRST RACE. As many teams of three members each may take part in this race as space will permit. Line each team up behind a starting tape at one end of the room. Arranged down a line toward the opposite end of the room have a row of the following objects, each team

having the same number and kind of objects—in other words, identical rows. In each row first place a straight chair, and a couple of feet in front of the chair place a pie tin containing a hard-boiled egg (which just may roll around you know). Next in line place a screw-top quart jar (without lid), and follow that with another pie tin containing a dozen navy beans. The last object in line will be the lid to the jar. When all is in readiness the race starts at the word GO when the leader of each team must run forward, pick up the chair and place it on the starting line, then secure the pie tin holding the egg and place it on the chair. The quart jar comes next. A race for the pie tin holding the beans is climaxed when every bean is poured into the jar. Each runner must then secure the lid for the jar and screw it in place. (Just try to speed through this lid screwing if you think it is easy.)

When the leader has accomplished all of this in the shortest possible time, he goes to the back of his line and number two on the team must place each object in the row just as it was before the race started. Unless the contestants have been very observant, this can be the most difficult part of the race as the beans must be emptied back into the pie tin after the lid is removed from the jar and back in the line, etc.

All who are not contesting act as the judges and determine if each object is in its original place before number three can follow the example of the leader and again collect the articles in proper order. Thus you see, number two has the most important job in the race. It is all most confusing, but a lot of fun.

The winning team is the one whose third man is first to regain his original place in the line-up. As a prize for the winning team in this race, the members may be served first at refreshment time.

Worship in the Family with Children

To Use with Younger Children

Why Are There Babies?

Christmas had been a happy time for Harry and Larry even though they did not get the puppy they wanted.

"Aunt Mary is coming on New Year's," Mother had said. "Since Patty is such a little baby, a puppy would be a nuisance. Perhaps you can have a puppy next year."

When Aunt Mary came, the boys were delighted with Patty. She smiled at them. She would coo and gurgle when they stood by her crib. She would hold tight to the fingers they held out to her.

"A baby is almost as good as a puppy," Larry confided to his brother, "expect you can't take it outdoors to play."

One morning Aunt Mary was late in giving Patty her bath. For the first time, Patty cried before she was dressed.

"What's wrong?" Harry asked.

"I'm late with her bath, and she's hungry. That's why she is crying," Aunt Mary answered.

"Shall I fix her bottle?" Mother asked.

"Yes, please," Aunt Mary said.

"And we'll hold it for her," the boys offered.

So the bottle was fixed and Patty was placed in her crib. Harry held the bottle first while Larry watched. Patty nursed hungrily for a while then stopped long enough to smile and coo. The boys laughed with delight!

"I guess that is her way of saying 'thank you,'" Harry said. Then Larry held the bottle while Harry watched.

"Why are babies so little?" Harry asked Larry.

"So they can grow, I guess," Larry answered.

Now Patty's eyes were closing.

"Look," whispered Larry, "she's going to sleep."

"Aunt Mary," Harry asked softly, "why do babies sleep so much?"

"They have to grow so much when they are young. Sleep helps them to grow," Aunt Mary said.

"Did we sleep a lot when we were babies?" the boys wondered.

"Yes, you did," their mother said. "All healthy babies do."

"Were we as little as Patty?" was the next question.

"Yes, and even smaller than she is now, when you were born," Mother explained.

"Why do people have babies?" the boys asked.

"So that there always will be people in the world," Aunt Mary said. "If there were no babies, there soon would be no big people. Then there would be no one to take care of things in the world. Babies grow into adults. That is part of God's plan for this world."

H. Armstrong Roberts



Theme for January:

I Think About Beginnings

A Word to Parents

The materials on this page and on the next two pages are for your use in moments of worship with your children. If you have a family worship service daily in your home, some of the materials here may be used at that time. If you use *The Secret Place*, you may find that some of these materials fit into the meditations in that booklet.

19

For Family Worship

My Prayer

Dear God, I know of course you see
How good I really want to be,
How hard I try to be polite,
How much I want to do things right.

Help me to understand your plans
For those in need, in other lands,
Please give to all your tender care,
And show me how I best can share.

Sometimes I try with all my might,
And nothing seems to go just right;
But if you help me every day,
I'm sure that I can learn your way.

—Lucia Cabot¹

Smiles

Sometimes my teacher smiles at me,
My mother often smiles;
To measure all the smiles I see,
I think they'd reach for miles.

The world is such a friendly place
When smiles come breaking through,
I feel that God has shown His face
And He is smiling, too.

—Florence Pedigo Jansson

A Prayer

Dear God, we are sorry today because our dog Tippy is dead. We thank you that we had him so long. We are glad that he always seemed so happy. Help us always to remember the love we saw in his eyes, the little grin on his face, the special little wag of his tail. When we think of him that way, he does not seem far away at all. Amen.

—Frances Bourne Taft

In Winter

I thank Thee for the beauty of
The snowy winter days and nights,
I thank Thee for the fun of games,
Of zipping sleds and snowball fights.

I thank Thee for my home life, Lord,
For parents and their loving care,
A cozy bed, nice books, and toys,
For good food and warm clothes to wear.

I thank Thee for each blessing that
The pleasant winter hours bring,
For comforts, friends with whom to play—
I thank Thee, Lord, for everything.

—Carmen Malone¹

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Worship Center: Christmas greens may be used with the open Bible. If you have older children in your family who read "To Use with Older Children," found on page 19, they may wish to arrange the worship center, using some of the ideas given there. These may be a globe of the world, a packet of seeds, a picture of a beautiful scene from nature, or a mobile to represent the sun, moon, and stars, to hang over the open Bible.

Call to Worship:

O LORD, our LORD,
how majestic is thy name in all the earth!

—Psalm 8:1.

Song: Use a favorite song, use the one that is printed on page 19, or choose one from the following: "My Friends," primary pupil's book, year one, summer quarter, page 19; "All Things Bright and Beautiful," primary pupil's book, year two, spring, page 6; "Jesus the Teacher," primary pupil's book, year two, spring, page 33; "Oh, Give Thanks Unto the Lord," primary pupil's book, year three, fall, page 22; "God Made Us a Beautiful World," primary pupil's book, year three, summer, page 18.

Poem: Read one of the poems on page 20, or choose one from the following: "God Takes Care of Everything," primary pupil's book, year one, fall, page 25; "Only God Can Know," primary pupil's book, year

one, spring, page 11; "What Makes a Home," primary pupil's book, year one, spring, page 31; "This Earth of Ours," primary pupil's book, year two, fall, page 22; "God Is Near," primary pupil's book, year three, fall, page 18.

Story: "God's Good Promise," primary pupil's book, year one, fall, page 23; "The Story Without an End," primary pupil's book, year one, spring, page 27; "The First Home," primary pupil's book, year one, spring, page 30; "Our Father's World," primary pupil's book, year two, fall, page 21; "Growing in Wisdom," primary pupil's book, year two, summer, page 34; "Why There Are Churches," primary pupil's book, year three, fall, page 3; "A Message About God's World," primary pupil's book, year three, summer, page 3.

Meditation: Plan your own meditations. It may be based upon the call to worship, using actual experiences of your family as illustrative material. It may be based upon the song, the poem, or the story you use.

Song: Choose another hymn from those suggested in the list above.

Prayer: Pray your own prayer; use the one on page 20, adapting it to the experiences of your own family; or use "A Prayer," found in the primary pupil's book, year one, spring quarter, page 35.

THE BLUE BLANKET

by Enola Chamberlin



"Long before noon his sleepy eyes and empty stomach begged him to take them home."

Jimmy frowned at the words on the card Miss Courtney handed him.

"I suppose if I don't study I get a red mark against one of these things," he said.

"If you don't get your lessons you get a red mark against industry," the teacher said. "And if you're late to school you get a red mark against punctuality, and so on down the line."

Jimmy was just entering the school at Allandale from Highland, forty miles away. The teacher was trying out a new system of marking and was explaining it to the newcomer.

"It's a lot of fun," she said. "You see, we apply our conduct out of school as well as in. The cards are marked every Friday. Of course everyone tries for a Blue Blanket."

Jimmy glanced up from the card. "What's a Blue Blanket?"

"When you don't get a red mark against anything, you get all blue ones. That gives you a Blue Blanket," she said.

"How does anyone know when you do things you shouldn't away from school?" Jimmy asked.

"You know," Miss Courtney said.

"Can anyone tell on you?" Jimmy asked.

"Yes," the teacher said, "but that would give the teller a mark against social aptitudes."

Jimmy went on studying the words on the card. Truthfulness, obedience, personal habits, self-control, punctuality, industry, courage, thrift, good judgment. Just the things a fellow should weave into his life anyhow!

"Any questions?" Miss Courtney asked after a little.

Jimmy shook his head. "These are just the things they mark you on with any report card, only they

have different names," Jimmy said.

"A little different, though," the teacher said. "You are on your honor here to tell when you have gone wrong on any of these things. And that means in school, at home, any place. We get the parents to let you work things out for yourselves, let you make your own decisions."

"I'll do my best," Jimmy said.

Jimmy dug eagerly into his lessons. There was such a happy will to work in the class that he found it easy: easy to do the things he was supposed to do, easy to keep from doing the things he was not supposed to do. It began to look as if his card would rate a Blue Blanket on Friday.

Then came Thursday afternoon. Harold and Claire, boys from Highland, came to his house.

(Continued on page 28)

What Are You



FitzSimmons

Family goals begin with the marriage vows and the wedding ceremony. Steps to a happy marriage include the keeping of the vows accepted in this sacred ceremony.

When your family comes together for a heart-to-heart talk, the chances are that someone will say: "We can't afford it—at least not now." "If we had more time—which we have not." "Right now there is no room for it." "What this family needs is. . ."

It is usual for families to have problems with their budget, schedule, housing, and other requirements of living together. Talking over such problems and making plans for the future are important means of family development. *Family decisions about money, time, or room accommodations are made according to what seems important to those who help decide what should be done.*

Take the question of money, for example: "We can't afford it—at least not now." Imagine a family conversation about the possible purchase of a new car. Certain members of the family have proposed it soon after attending the midwinter auto show. Their present car seems to them to be obsolete, although it runs well.

Some parents encourage more democracy in family discussion than others are ready to allow. We do not know, then, how our imaginary family reached its conclusion not to buy a car. One person may have said, "No." Or everyone, after full debate, may have voted: "We cannot afford it now." A decision was reached. Such decisions imply, always, consideration with rejection or acceptance of other possible uses for the same money. We have learned that money can be spent only once. This family decided: "We cannot afford a car." "Mother is in the hospital," or "Dad's insurance is due," or "We are saving for college expenses later on." They decided against the purchase of a new car when buying it was considered in relation to *their standard of family loyalty and their long-range family plans.*

A familiar family complaint is that there is insufficient time for the family to be together, or to worship at home, or to have a vacation. Now the rotation of the earth is impartial, giving to all of us the same amount of time! Some people budget their time; others spend it thoughtlessly, minute-by-minute, without planning. At the end of the year, however, the same number of hours, days, months have passed for everyone.

Time is life, energy, opportunity—resources which are allocated by family decisions. If we have time

Living For?

by Richard E. Lentz

only for one function it is on the basis of their relative value to us that we choose to see a TV program, go to church, or visit a friend. We have no time for common family interests because each one has planned his schedule without thought of the others. Our individual programs seem more important and worthwhile to us than the interests of the whole family.

Sometimes life is like a cafeteria in which desserts and sweets are placed at the beginning of the line. Many "go down the line" without much thought of basic food requirements or balance in diet. They fill their tray early! Each item put upon the tray expresses a *choice by impulse*.

Living by impulse, or whim, is not limited to the selection of food. It has become a common habit and pattern of modern daily life. Many people seem to live without a plan for their life: they have no grand purpose which they are trying to achieve. Much of our confusion, waste, and frustration result from the lack of a worthy life goal. *The best alternative to life by impulse is life by purpose.*

The purposes, or goals, of a family are shown by their decisions about budget, time, and room accommodations. Usually the difficulties we experience in these areas of family life root in conflicting family purposes or unclear goals. A task which belongs to every growing family is that of continual review and revision of goals.

It may seem strange to some to speak of family goals. They associate goals with campaigns of organizations, like community chest or church building funds. Yet, a family is a permanent society. At its very beginning, usually some lifelong goals have been accepted. Both the marriage vows and wedding ceremony include goals. A typical wedding vow is:

"I (-----) take thee (-----) to be my wedded wife; to have and to hold from this day forward for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish 'til death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth."

Usually the ceremony will include music and prayers, and a charge by the minister which makes specific reference to an expected lifetime of mutual love, loyalty, and of faithfulness to God.

Parents are requesting, in increasing numbers, that the church recognize parental responsibility as Christian vocation. Church services of dedication for parents are quite common. From one of these comes this wording of family goals:

"Do you therefore pledge, before God and these witnesses, that to the best of your ability you will continue to care for and rear (your child) as a child of God in a Christian home; so providing for his physical wants and his intellectual development, and so cultivating his social graces and his religious life that he may grow in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and Man?

"Do you further pledge that to the best of your ability you will lead before him lives of Christian grace, forbearance, and love, instructing him by word and deed in the way of life and praying for him each day; so that on reaching the age of accountability he shall desire of his own free will to confess faith in Christ and to be baptized with the fellowship of his Church?"¹

There is a comparable expression of comprehensive Christian family goal in several of the services used by churches to recognize silver and golden anniversaries. A more limited goal usually is subscribed to by families in simple services of dedication for a new home.

It is worthwhile for a family to talk over its purposes or goals during mealtime or at times of family

¹Let the Children Come, *Christian Worship—A Service Book*, p. 79. Available from Christian Board of Publication.



Walter Hering

Increasingly the church and the home are recognizing parental responsibility as Christian vocation. Church services for the dedication of parents and children are providing the awareness of the church's and parents' constant responsibility for the religious nurture of the child.

relaxation. In this way they can keep their goals up-to-date and, at the same time, related to their daily problems. Church meetings for parents provide another opportunity for evaluation of goals and progress toward achievement of them. When families think seriously about lifelong goals, they usually agree on such broad ones as the following:

1. Put God first in daily life.
2. Strive for Christlikeness in thought and deed.
3. Serve loyally in and through the church.
4. Show love as parents and children, each doing what is best for others.
5. Make our homes centers of Christian influence and growth.

However, two difficulties are experienced in using these. What do they mean in terms of day-by-day

family situations? What are the intermediate steps of progress which may be taken toward such idealistic goals? Considerable assistance is needed sometime to make explicit, for the details of home and family life, the implications of lifelong commitments of goals. Help may be required, too, to mobilize moral, social, and spiritual resources to move forward toward such demanding ideals.

General family goals need to be broken down into specific goals for various aspects of home and family life, and for day-by-day situations. Using one goal from the list of general goals, we may see the importance of detailing implications. "Put God first in daily life," was first on the list and should be first in priority for every Christian. How and when does this become meaningful for the home? Without at

for "What Are You Living For?"



Study Guide

Approaching the Meeting

Individual reading of the article *What Are You Living For?* should be interesting and helpful but exchange of ideas with others in group discussion will most certainly add still further value. Reading of the article by your group prior to the meeting will get the discussion off to a better beginning. The earlier your group can be involved in preparing for the meeting, the greater will be their interest.

Before-Meeting Preparation

1. Remind each one to read *What Are You Living For?*
2. Suggest the following simple projects, asking each family to undertake at least one:
 - a. List your family group activities (what you do together) for the last month.
 - b. Review and discuss your family budget (or expenses) for the last six months, seeking clues to your family goals.

c. Keep a record of the topics of table conversation for a week.

3. Assign to four members preparation of five-minute talks on:

- a. Conscience and the Family Budget.
- b. Should We Teach Our Children to Try to Please Others?
- c. How Church Membership Influences What a Family Lives For.
- d. Is Peace at Home a Wholesome Family Goal?

4. Delegate to one member the responsibility of leading the group discussion developing out of the article and the presentation of the four talks suggested above. Sometimes two leaders can work together conducting a discussion group. To stimulate the discussion, a specific topic will need to be stated, the more provocative the better, such as:

- a. Do We Know Where We Are Going?
 - b. What Is Our Family Objective?
 - c. Making Life Worthwhile at Home.
5. Study groups of the type using *Hearthstone* may meet in homes or at

the church. Usually they require considerable promotion for good attendance. Mail and telephone invitations are needed to supplement public announcements. Personal calls usually are more effective than mail or announcement.

Meeting Development

There are several important steps in the meeting of parents to discuss their family goals:

1. A social program is needed to create an informal, friendly atmosphere in which honest discussion can take place. Any of the standard books of games will offer a number of suggestions to help with this phase of the meeting. Name tags and chair arrangement will also contribute to discussion.

2. Discussions by church groups take place within an atmosphere which is friendly but which includes definite spiritual orientation. A prayer, scripture reading, or hymn may be all that is needed if it is well chosen. Matthew 6:19-34 is an appropriate New Testament selection.

3. Your discussion leader (or leaders) may wish to propose several leading questions to stimulate the discussion. Suggestions for that use are: What do we mean by family goals? Is it wrong to seek to "keep up with the Joneses"? Does a family recognize its real goals?

4. Instead of questions, to start the discussion, a simple role playing of a family discussion (one from the article would do) might be preferable. A film strip or sound film would provoke discussion. Selection may be made from the listings of such materials by the Department of Audio-Visuals of the United Christian Missionary Society.

5. Developing the discussion will depend upon ideas proposed by the group. To be of maximum value the discussion should deal with the issues and problems

(Continued on page 30)

empting to cover all of the implications, let us examine a few.

A family group obviously has many interpersonal relationships. Also, it lives in a community where others live and where there are churches. Members of the family play on playgrounds, work in stores or factories, visit libraries, and participate in many other activities. Nearly any family, after talking together about the matter, can be specific about what they think God would have them be and do in some of these relationship and responsibilities. They will be able to draw up a family code, or goal, using headings like: "Our relationships to one another in our home"; "Our family and our church"; "Our home and neighborhood"; and "Our family and its possessions."

The details which they include under these head-

ings will surely be practical as guides for making family decisions about money, time, and space. "Put God first in our relationships to one another in our homes." Then do we pray for one another? Do we encourage the best in one another? Do we respect the worth and privacy of each other? Family conversation, worship, and study can help us.

The full meaning of the Christian faith is not known once and for all time. We grow in our understanding of it as year by year and situation by situation we conscientiously seek to live the best that we know. Families have the same experience. Through life, then, their determination to be true to the commitments which have been made will lead them ever forward and upward to nobler goals. Such is the adventure and promise of the Christian life. *Isn't this what you are living for!*

BIBLEGRAM

by *Hilda E. Allen*

Guess the words defined below and write them over their numbered dashes. Then transfer each letter to the correspondingly numbered square in the pattern. The colored squares indicated word endings.

Reading from left to right, you will find that the filled pattern will contain a selected quotation from the Bible.

(Solution on page 28)

A Color of the summer foliage --	84 24 69 73 47
B Number of Snow White's dwarfs -----	46 16 28 50 26
C Color of the male tanager ---	4 31 7 68 13 48 1
D Slight colorings -----	89 44 81 92 36
E Popular color for a wedding dress -----	72 20 90 63 55
F Color of the skin -----	9 22 41 106 93
G Popular hair dye color -----	37 87 59 83 67
H Home of the angels -----	2 65 33 49 6 61
I Color of the old confederate uniforms -----	85 80 96 77
J Creamy-white, like an elephant's tusk -----	38 15 53 86 94
K Time of day when sky colors are most beautiful -----	11 101 70 91 29 5

L A shade of green, like a fruit --	17 102 97 74 35
M Number of colors in our flag	56 99 51 27 75
N A cherry-like color -----	52 21 76 82 39 3
O Brown-colored breakfast drink	43 14 95 18 60 71
P White or gray with age -----	64 23 10 42 66
Q Froth or spume -----	100 57 58 40
R The greatest quantity -----	78 79 105 98
S Illustrious act -----	8 104 32 62
T Clever -----	34 54 88 30 12
U Take care of -----	19 45 103 25

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12		13	14	15	16		17	18	
19	20	21		22	23	24	25		26	27
28	29	30		31	32	33	34	35	36	
37	38	39		40	41	42	43	44	45	46
	47	48	49	50	51		52	53	54	55
	56	57		58	59		60	61	62	
63	64	65	66		67	68	69		70	71
72		73	74	75	76	77		78	79	80
81	82	83	84		85	86	87	88	89	
90	91		92	93	94		95	96	97	98
99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106			

My Son Took a Pap



Photo by erb

I had noticed that the age of our newsboys tended to become lower with each succeeding year. High school and junior high boys, increasingly absorbed in athletics, were seldom available for this service. However, I was not prepared to face the problem when we were approached about letting our ten-year-old take over a paper route of his own.

At first I had a city-conditioned reaction. In my mind's eye I saw my boy's blond head bobbing in a stream of rushing urchins, spurted into breaks of traffic, smears of printer's ink showing like gashes on his light complexion, his large reflective eyes squinting slyly as he echoed the cry: "Wife slayer faces trial; read all about it."

Then I translated the proposition into terms of our present situation in a small town, where he would deliver the newspapers to homes of our neighbors. There would still be the smears of ink, with its smell somehow dear to my working days, and there would be some clutching of money, I supposed; but the sordidness of paper peddling could certainly be

One of the chief values in carrying a paper route is that of assuming responsibility. To have to deliver in chilling rain or tempting sunshine brings its problems!

Route

by Katherine Lewno

avoided. There would be problems. Was our ten-year-old prepared to face them, as well as to shoulder the responsibility of daily deliveries in chilling rain or tempting sunshine?

Already, though this fact had scarcely been acknowledged by the family, he helped a friend occasionally with a paper route. On a substitute's earnings he had tasted the sweetness of snacks bought with his own money, felt the uplift of a contribution and a gift offered from his very own purse. He was eager to take on responsibility of his own. We decided to let him try.

From the start, the paper's circulation director impressed upon him the value of "giving good service." Some of the directions seemed bothersome to him, however. One day the paper he delivered contained a description of the final game of the world series, the Milwaukee Braves against the New York Giants. Faithfully, he sang out "Paper," as he shoved the copies through the doors. In several homes he heard in response

(Continued on page 30)



Photo by erb

Friends of the paper boy may be trained to assist with the deliveries. This involves delegating responsibility. To give necessary directions and to share profits fairly is certainly a valuable experience for a ten-year-old.

Will your son take a paper route?

Your Family and Missions

(Continued from page 6)

grateful! The question is, how grateful? Grateful enough to share in some real way that which has so blessed us in our country and in our homes? Grateful enough to return some of the sacrifices which were made on our behalf? Jesus said, "Freely, ye have received, freely give." (KJV) Does that not mean us and our household and our families?

Is this asking too much? Others did it for us and ours!

"Give of thy sons to bear the message glorious;

Give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;

Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious;

O Zion, haste to bring the brighter day."

There is no such thing as "Foreign Missions." This thing we call Christian missions is a living part of each of our homes. How thankful I am that the heritage of my home was changed by someone who told my ancestors of the love of God! My children and I are blessed each day of our lives because of this fact! The future of my children and their homes—and your children and their homes—will depend in great degree on how seriously we, in our turn, will have taken the great commission of our Lord!



Through Eyes of Faith

(Continued from page 3)

It was in 1954 that a young man poked through the museum, obviously impressed by the more than five thousand dolls and scores of collector's items including old coins, currency, old newspapers, relics, old toys, and documents. He identified himself as a representative of the Smithsonian Institute and told Mrs. Tucker that her Museum of Hobbies was on their list of museums to visit.

Few visitors fail to exclaim over some long-forgotten item. Children, rather than wanting the dolls, often want to give their dolls to Mrs. Tucker.

Still firm in the belief that blessings come in proportion to one's faith, Mrs. Tucker has plans for further enhancing her creation. Unfortunately, there is no gauge for measuring the inspiration that visitors have taken away with them. However, the poem which Mrs. Tucker uses in connection with her three-dimensional picture of "The Lost Sheep" seems to more than adequately cover the purpose of her work.

(See poem on page 3.)

The Blue Blanket

(Continued from page 21)

"Hi, Jim," they greeted him.

"What are you two doing here?" Jimmy was so glad to see them he wanted to shout.

"Came for you. What you suppose?"

"Came for me?" Jimmy puzzled.

"Uh huh. Colton's against us in the ball game tonight. Wade sprained his wrist. You've got to come pitch or we're sunk."

Jimmy's eyes danced. Called back to pitch! What fun to plunk the ball at Colton's batters again.

"I'll be ready in—" he stopped. "How'll I get there and back?"

"Dad's here to take us over," Harold said. "He'll bring you back after the game."

"But I'll be late."

"You've been late before," Claire said.

"That was—" Jimmy stopped. If he told these boys that was before he came to Allandale and was trying to get blue marks on good judgment and such things they'd whoop and holler to wake the dead. If he didn't go he'd have to tell them why. And he wanted desperately to go.

Jimmy shot into the kitchen. "May I go to Highland to pitch tonight, Mom?" he asked.

Mrs. Mills crimped a pie crust. She was not supposed to make his decisions. "If you think you should," she said.

"Harold and Claire came after me, and—"

"Don't defend yourself, Jimmy," his mother said.

Jimmy drew his mother's face down and pecked a kiss at her cheek. "I'll come back with Harold's dad. Don't worry if I'm late," he said.

It was a great game. Jimmy won it, the boys said. And Jimmy was too excited and happy to sleep as Mr. Squires' car sped along through the late moonlight.

When his alarm buzzed the next morning he thought, "I'll lie here just one minute more."

Ten minutes later his mother called him the one call the rules allowed. "Just a minute, Mom," he answered.

The next thing he knew he was on his feet in the middle of the room. A bell was ringing, a school bell. His clothes went on—zip, button, tie—like a fireman going to a fire. He shot out of the house. No time for breakfast. He made it to the school yard to fall breathlessly into line.

Long before noon his sleepy eyes and empty stomach begged him to take them home. But he won the fight to keep his mind off of them and on his work. After lunch he felt better except that he knew he could not take a Blue Blanket. He sat staring out the window while the



rest of the class went up to get their cards. For once there was not a red mark for anyone, until it was Jimmy's turn.

"Well, Jimmy, do you get a Blue Blanket, too?" the teacher asked.

"No," Jimmy said, "I don't."

There was a rustle in the room like wind in a tree. The rest of the class had expected him to get it.

"Do you mind telling us why?" Miss Courtney asked.

"I used poor judgment," Jimmy said. And then the whole story came out. "And I was so hungry before noon I could have eaten my pencil," Jimmy finished.

The room was bursting with understanding laughter.

"Give him a Blue Blanket," someone said.

"No," Jimmy said, "I get a red mark on good judgment."

Then all the children were gathered around Jimmy.

"Too bad," Helen said.

Jimmy grinned at her. "It's a Blue Blanket with red trim," he said, "that makes the blue all the bluer." But he made up his mind that next week he'd have a Blue Blanket as well as the rest of them.

Biblegram Solution

(Biblegram on page 25)

SOLUTION: "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23.)

The Words

A Green	K Sunset
B Seven	L Olive
C Scarlet	M Three
D Tints	N Cerise
E White	O Coffee
F Flesh	P Hoary
G Henna	Q Foam
H Heaven	R Most
I Gray	S Deed
J Ivory	T Smart

U Tend



Family Counselor

WE HAVE tried to figure out the reason for our four-year-old boy's actions but have been unsuccessful and trust you can help.

He sucks his thumb, has since he was a baby. He also wets every night, although during the summer when he was two and one-half he was dry a good many nights. After fall came he started wetting again and has *never* been dry since. A younger baby joined the family when he was two.

He is very aggressive and seems to like to fight. When he wakes up in the morning he seems to have to hit the first person he sees. He is very defiant about wetting, and says when he gets up, "See, I am wet!" He enjoys being with a friend who lives quite a distance from us, a boy his own age. They wrestle and get along fine; but there are no boys his age around close.

He has an older sister who has lots of girl friends around and he picks on them at times and sometimes on his younger brother.

Our four-year-old is really quite large for his age, and we would like to know how we can keep him from becoming a bully. We would appreciate your opinion.

THERE ARE several possible reasons for a four-year-old's bed-wetting and only you, of course, can judge whether or not any of them are applicable to your son.

A child whose parents too early seek to teach him toilet control, is likely to develop a feeling of anxious concern about the matter, a concern that makes the control even more difficult to acquire. Parents so frequently expect more

than they should of their children in this regard. Toilet control is a gradual development and the length of time required varies with different children.

It is important, therefore, that parents should not compare their children with other children in this regard. Neither should they feel ashamed if their child is a bit slower in developing control than their neighbor's child. At any rate, if considerable importance is placed upon having a dry bed, the child not only senses the fact that he pleases his parents when he keeps dry, but also realizes that when he wants to get even with them for anything, he may do so by wetting the bed. This is especially likely to be true if he feels he is neglected by his parents.

Sometimes children wet the bed because of physical reasons that a physician can discover. But in many instances, the continuation of this habit is due to psychological rather than physical causes.

Let me suggest, therefore, that you try not to show concern when your son wets the bed. Under no circumstances try to shame him because of what he has done. Assure him that you realize it sometimes is difficult to stay dry. If he discovers that you are not bothered when he wets the bed, some of the anxiety he now has may disappear and he will have a better chance of staying dry.

The fact that he is defiant about the bed-wetting suggests that perhaps too much importance has been placed upon staying dry and he has developed an unfortunate sense of guilt when he fails to do so.

It is important, too, that you give him an abundance of love and approval. A "middle" child is likely to feel neglected. He cannot compete in various skills or abilities with his older sister and hence feels a bit inferior to her. Neither does he receive the attention from you and others that his younger brother receives. It is little wonder, then, that he should feel somewhat insecure and rather resentful toward you.

It just may be, therefore, that part of your son's difficulty lies in the fact that he feels you neglect him. I am sure you are not consciously doing so, but after all that is not the question. What is important is what he thinks. Be sure, therefore, that you take time to be with him alone, to guide him in his play activities, to show approval over his accomplishments, and to assure him of your love.

The child who feels secure, both with respect to his family and to his friends, is not likely to become a bully. Everything suggested above, therefore, should serve to prevent his becoming one. But again, let me stress the importance of his being with those of his own age and size.

Donald M. Maynard

My Son Took a Paper Route

(Continued from page 27)

the rushing of teen-age feet, and the value of the extra effort in announcing his coming was brought home quite convincingly to him.

Another discovery that he made soon was that cooperation is better than competition. It happened that one of his friends delivered the morning paper in the same part of town. Walking through the neighborhood together, the two boys found it easy to discover what families did not take a paper. They took turns approaching those people and each gained several new customers.

While covering the neighborhood, they also came upon something surprising. One family "did not believe in reading newspapers." This reply caused a great deal of speculation, leading even to an investigation of what religion could prohibit the reading of daily papers. The boys finally concluded that the family must be "Puritan." Though the matter was dismissed, after a while I am sure, it affected in the boys' minds a reflection as to the value of the newspapers and, also, of all printed matter.

The taking of responsibility is, of course, considered the most valuable lesson every newsboy learns. I found that it also provided opportunity for "delegating responsibility." We thought it best that our boy continue with some of his after-school activities, and he made arrangements with another boy to deliver the paper for him once a week. To give his substitute all the necessary directions, to make sure that he did a good job, and to share his monthly profits fairly with him was quite a challenge to a young boy.

There are other reasons for such arrangements. Boys in the pre-teen age are usually still susceptible to childhood diseases and to colds. By having a trained substitute, a major crisis is neatly avoided when the newsboy has to be kept indoors. Besides, it gives another boy the opportunity to become familiar with this service.

Out of this partnership an occasion arose which caused the boys to realize that they had some power to retaliate, or at least annoy. The substitute-friend was unjustly accused of playing a Halloween trick on one of the customers. "If he does not stop blaming Tim, he'll have a hard time finding his paper every night," declared my son, loyally. The thought of losing a customer had to be weighed against this temptation for revenge. After a while it appeared not only Christian, but also a better business practice to forgive.

Many boys take a paper route as a means of acquiring something they want very much, which their parents cannot afford. Our boy seems to have taken it more for the feeling of satisfaction and importance it gives him. Not that all his desires are satisfied. Like every

boy, he wishes fervently for certain things, only to transfer his longing to something new in a few days. Now, since the acquisition of more things lies within his reach, values somehow are appraised in a new way. It becomes doubtful if a telescope, even in this time of comets and satellites, is worth months of trudging through rain and snow. To put some of his earnings away toward a college education seems suddenly a reasonable thing to a ten-year-old.

The most difficult part of the job, especially for a young boy, is the collections. In our situation they have to be made monthly, which means that a considerable amount of money is involved. After I had helped several times with the accounting, he went ahead on his own. It was a shock when he finished with a shortage of ten dollars. Burdened with a feeling of guilt, I must have lavished my sympathy on his heart-break, for it provoked our high-school athlete to a terse comment: "Didn't I hear you say, 'to lose is good for the soul'?"

I could see at once that I needed this setback to my confidence in my offspring, soaring lately like a pride-propelled missile. What about the boy? No suspicion of having been short-changed entered his mind; to the contrary, he decided that he would not give up his route just now, because designing and distributing his Christmas cards would be so much fun. The many small gifts and other signs of appreciation he received during the holiday season made the great "misfortune" shrink from a reminder to caution for further collections.

As a Christian and new church member my paper boy still had to face another test. Sitting beside him in church the first Sunday after he had made his collections, I wondered whether his training in Christian stewardship had been adequate, or would he need reminding to increase his contribution. My question was answered when the offering was taken: with only the slightest ostentation the boy put a dollar on the plate instead of the customary dime. An acknowledging look, followed by rapid blinking to control a possible overflow of warm moisture in my eyes, was the only communication that passed between us in this matter.

Intermittently I had been wondering how to guide my son's growth, so that he would become interested in the content of the paper he delivered. An opportunity presented itself when he decided to start a scrapbook which was to contain all the mementos of his office, such as the contract, bills, and reward list for gaining new customers. I suggested that he also paste in his scrapbook any interesting picture or article he might find in the paper. Since he seems to have "a way with words," I am hoping that in time this practice may lead him to higher ambitions in the publishing world.

What I—and I am sure many other—dislike about the newsboy's business is the pressure he is led to exert on prospective customers by requesting favors. "If you'll take the paper from me at least for a month, it would help me to earn a camera," is an approach which might, in the long run, not even be good for the publisher's business. It brings to mind too many unpleasant experiences with "college students" earning their way by selling magazines. Like some other mothers, I am determined to influence my son against making anything besides the value of his product and the quality of his service a proper selling point.

As I look back on the months in which my son has been in the "newspaper business," I marvel at the amount of growing he has experienced. I find, besides that it has given me a new insight into the problems a child faces when he strives to adjust to the adult world. I may seem strange, but I have also become concerned that he should accept all practices and customs as unchangeable.

In retrospect, I also realize that before I gave my consent for my son to become a newspaper boy, I should not only have asked the question whether he was ready for this experience; but should have considered also, whether I myself, was ready to see my youngest grow away from his dependence on his parents; and whether, at the same time, I was prepared to guide him in this entry into the adult world.

Study Guide

(Continued from page 24)

of the persons present. Some logical ideas to be explored are:

a. What are our family goals: in finances, religion, child development, or in other areas?

b. How do we seek to achieve them?

c. What obstacles do we encounter?

d. Can we help each other?

e. Is the church a help—or hindrance?

f. How or when should family goals be revised?

g. What is the relation between our religion and our goals?

6. In summarizing, the leaders should press for specific ideas, helping families see the relation of family worship, study, church attendance, and their goal formulations and achievements.

7. Stimulating discussions usually open up lines of continuing study and investigation. Reference materials can be of value at this point. *Your Family and Christian Stewardship* by Florence Sly; *Christian Worship by Families* by Richard E. Lentz can be read or assigned as follow-up studies. Many articles in *Hearthstone*, whether study articles or not, provide supplementary insight to the problem of family goals. *Front Rank* and *Bethany Guide* include similar material, occasionally.

BOOKS for the hearthside

For Young People

For Children

A new book for children from four to seven years of age is **Mouse, Mouse, Go Out of My House**, by Elizabeth Low (Little, Brown and Co., 1958, unpaginated \$2.75). Toby was helping Aunt Bee clean their little house in the country. In the process, he found several little animals: a flying squirrel, a bat, a mole, and a mouse. All of them had to be taken outside, for Aunt Bee said that a house was no place for them. After each of these episodes, a poem is inserted as the song of that particular animal. When the house was all clean and waiting for the rest of the family to arrive, Toby felt lonesome. He went outside and found a white cat and two kittens behind the woodpile. They were just right for a house! The pictures are by Ronnie Solbert. This is a charming book—both in text and illustration.

Children seven to eleven years of age will enjoy **Molly Cottontail**, by Erskine Caldwell (Little, Brown and Co., 1958, 32 pages, \$2.50). This is the story of Johnny who liked to make pets of animals. His Aunt Nellie said that boys had to hunt and kill animals in order to grow up to be real Southern gentlemen. So Johnny took the shotgun and went to the gulley where the rabbits had their holes. How he got his rabbit and how he felt about it make a good story. The two-color illustrations are by William Sharp.

"All is not gold that glitters" could well be the way the plot for **Gold at Hunters' Point**, by Ethel T. Wolverton (Longmans, Green and Co., New York, 1958, 177 pages, \$2.75) could be described. It is the story of how a family faced and finally surmounted the hostility of the community in which they lived. The Blake family found themselves in the midst of a mystery that threatened the life of the father as well as the happiness and welfare of all of them. Karen Blake and her high school friends have a large part in solving the mystery; breaking up a swindle plot that involved a fake gold strike, and saving her father's life. The action of the story is set in mining and logging country and provides abundant excitement for young readers.

Soccer football provides the background for **A Goal for Greg**, by William MacKellar (David McKay Co., New York, 1958, 151 pages, \$2.75). Greg Thomson is a star soccer player whose career seemed cut short by an accident that cost the loss of part of his foot. An understanding coach helped him overcome his handicap as well as assisting Greg and other members of the team in the process of growing up. The story offers much tense drama in recounting the experiences of a group of normal teen-agers. The author writes of the 95 per cent of our teen-agers who are not delinquents. He knows them well and tells a gripping story.

A story about young people just out of high school and trying their own

wings is entitled **Sand in My Castle**, by Shirley Belden (Longmans, Green and Co., New York, 1958, 173 pages, \$2.75). Judith Burritt has been tied too closely to her mother's apron strings, so going out on her own was not easy. How she fares as she makes her own way results in a fascinating story that young people will enjoy. Laid against the background of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, the book carries the fine flavor of that historic area. The author is a native of New England and knows her field thoroughly.

For Adults

A good book for all the family, to help in mutual understanding, is **Dangerous Fathers, Problem Mothers, and Terrible Teens**, by Carlyle Marney (Abingdon, Nashville, 1958, 128 pages, \$2). Maybe you or your children fit none of these rather startling word-pictures in the title of this book, but there is much food for thought by all of us here. Of course, it will not answer all your questions or solve all your family problems but it will help you take a better look at yourselves. The author is a popular minister, lecturer, author, and student of human nature.

Do you have a yen for history? Are you interested in South America? Then **The Pageant of South American History**, by Anne Merriman Peck (Longmans, Green and Co., New York, 1958, 409 pages, \$6) is for you. It is brief, informative, vivid, and accurate (so far as this reviewer can tell) and is filled with photographs and maps. In these days when tensions are high between the United States and our neighbors to the south we would all do well to try to know them better and understand them more.

OVER THE BACK FENCE

A Word from Japan

The following is a portion of a letter from one of the 300 delegates from the U.S. to the World Convention of Christian Education held in Japan in August, 1958.

"The 14th World Convention is well under way, and is proving to be a rich and rewarding experience for all concerned. To date more than 5,000 delegates are here from nearly 70 countries. . . . We from the West are very obviously in the minority.

"We members of the East Asia Tour group are scattered among the several general divisions for the morning session. . . . I am recorder for one of the sections of the division on Christian Education in the Home, and what an interesting time we are having! We have Japanese, Koreans, Philipinos, Thailanders, Americans, and a delegate from Taiwan in the group. We are usually surprised to discover that, although our cultural backgrounds vary widely, the problems we face in the area of Christian home and family life are quite similar.

"One of our greatest thrills was to attend the Children's Rally in the huge Tokyo Sports Arena on Saturday afternoon. There were about 6,500 children present, all from Japanese Protestant churches. Their grades in school ranged from the 4th through the 9th grade. Their children's choir of 600 voices sang beautifully. Such an experience gives one a new hope for the future of the Christian Church in Japan.

"We all enjoyed a tour through both the boys' and girls' schools; . . . they certainly need help to purchase some badly needed facilities and equipment, especially a science laboratory for the boys' school. The one now being used is

completely inadequate. However we are continually impressed by the high quality of work being done by missionaries and nationals in spite of limited resources of all kinds. These people deserve more help than they are receiving."

Hearthstone's readers will note with interest the reference to the common elements in family life problems. To paraphrase Bobbie Burns, "a family's a family for a' that," no matter from what nation it may come. Such a World Convention reveals how much we have to share with one another and learn from one another.

We have shared with you this on-the-spot reaction to the World Convention of Christian Education in order that you might have a personal glimpse into one or two aspects of life in other parts of our world.

Have You Had Yours Yet?

Your shots of Salk vaccine against polio, we mean! As you may know, *Hearthstone* is printed on a very long schedule. Just before January 1958, we received a letter which came much too late to be given mention last January. So we bring you the essence of that letter now.

At that time over 40 million persons under 40 had not received a single shot of Salk vaccine. These persons are the ones most susceptible to this dread disease. That is a shocking figure which we hope is no longer true.

However, there are probably many millions who have not taken the trouble to be immunized. They perhaps are thinking that it can't happen to them!

There is no longer any question as to the effectiveness of the Salk shots. A recent news item from Chicago (mid-August) told of the first death in that city from polio in 1958. The expected death-rate before-Salk was nearly 50. The child that had died *had not* been given the Salk vaccine.

First, see that your children are taken care of. Next, if under 40 go have your shots. Then, encourage those over 40, to go and do likewise!

Poetry Page

Snowbanks and a Stream

An icy running mountain stream
Can thread its way between the
snow
Piled cushion deep, when it should
seem
To be too cold to even go.

Then move, my heart, when rebel
tears
Congeal the very urge to be.
If mountain streams run through
the years
A heart can do no less for me.

—Mildred Fielder



Winter Quest

There are leafy grottos in our tree
Crooning cradle songs of wind
and bird;
Shelter without benefit of fee;
Music undisheveled by a word.

When the leaves have floated
down to ground,
Patient branches finger bits of
sky,
Searching for some plaintive little
sound
Reminiscent of a lullaby.

—Gene Moore

NO TROUBLE HERE!

It's easy to cultivate better tastes and to teach children with the new *Home and Church Songs* (record album and songbook) and new books from Bethany Press—worth-while reading for every age.

There's an action-packed tale of a western porcupine who bravely wins friendship with other animals by learning to "be himself" . . . a thrilling true story of a great general who had pulled himself up from obscure poverty . . . an appealing story of a typical family and their happy life together . . . a book to help children find purpose and meaning in everyday devotions and prayers.

Teachers and mothers will find among this collection gifts they wish had come along much sooner.

For ages 6-9—*CACTUS* by Virginia W. Struble, with 50 authentic pictures by Lillian Thoele, many of which are in two colors. \$1.75.

For ages 3-5—*OUR HAPPY FAMILY* by Mabel Niedermeyer McCaw, with delightful child-life pictures by Priscilla Pointer \$1.50.

For ages 10 and up—*GENERAL JIM* by Hazel H. Davis, the story of James A. Garfield, with beautiful etchings by P. R. Theibert. \$3.00.



For ages 8-12—*ALL THROUGH THE YEAR* by Grace McGavran with decorations by Ruth W. Rogers. Devotionals for every season. \$2.50.

For 3- to 6-year-olds—*HOME AND CHURCH SONGS*. Special combination offer of 45 r.p.m. record album and songbook, \$3.45. (Album alone, \$2.95; songbook alone, 65 cents).

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